

African-American Heritage month honors first four-star general

By Staff Sgt. George Cox
8th Fighter Wing Historian

“I’ve fought in three wars, and three more wouldn’t be too many to defend my country. I love America and as she has weaknesses or ills, I’ll hold her hand.”

These are the words of one man who would blaze a trail for many others to follow. His name? Gen. Daniel “Chappie” James, the first African-American four-star general.

James was born in 1920 in Pensacola, Fla. He attended Tuskegee University from 1937-1942, where, in addition to receiving his degree, he earned his civilian pilot’s license.

He remained at Tuskegee as an instructor for the Army Corps Aviation Cadet Program, training aviation cadets who became known as the Tuskegee Airmen. In January 1943, James entered the program and received his commission as a second lieutenant. For the remainder of World War II, he continued training pilots and worked in other assignments.

In December 1966, James went to Ubon Royal Thai Air Force Base, Thailand, as deputy commander for operations, 8th Tactical Fighter Wing, and in June 1967, was named the wing’s vice commander. He flew 78 combat missions and led a flight during

the famed Operation BOLO MiG sweep, where seven MiG-21s were destroyed – the highest total kill of any mission during World War II.

In September 1975, James became the first African-American officer in the history of the U.S. military to attain the four-star general rank. He was assigned as commander of the North American Air Defense (NORAD) Command and Aerospace Defense Command, a position he held until his retirement Feb. 1, 1978.

Gen. Daniel “Chappie” James passed away Feb. 25, 1978, after suffering a heart attack.

Outstanding Performers

The following warriors were identified as outstanding performers during the Feb. 11-16 IRRE/CERE. These personnel were recognized for superior job performance and making significant contributions toward the success of their unit during the exercise. Their achievements reflect credit on themselves and set the standards for others to emulate.

8th Fighter Wing

- 1st Lt. Kelly Cahalan
- Master Sgt. Judd Torche
- Tech. Sgt. Robert English
- Tech. Sgt. Roger Harms
- Tech. Sgt. Curtis Littlejohn
- Tech. Sgt. Raymond Gutierrez
- Staff Sgt. Alejandra Bustamante
- Staff Sgt. Michael Chavez
- Senior Airman Sanita Fulton

8th Comptroller Flight

- Senior Master Sgt. Daniel Herford
- Master Sgt. Eileen Boles
- Tech. Sgt. William Drake
- Tech. Sgt. Jaime Hiplito
- Staff Sgt. Christine Coady
- Staff Sgt. Derrick Jones
- Staff Sgt. Melisa Thomas
- Senior Airman Richard Roy

8th Operations Support Squadron

- Lt. Col. Kenneth Rozelsky
- 2nd Lt. Phillip Curwen
- 2nd Lt. Bradley Edmonson
- 2nd Lt. Nicole Hines
- Senior Master Sgt. William Menhart
- Master Sgt. Scott Bachowski
- Tech. Sgt. Lisa Heintzleman
- Staff Sgt. Erma Goolsby
- Staff Sgt. Tracy Kemp
- Staff Sgt. Joseph McGinnis
- Staff Sgt. Armand Moody
- Staff Sgt. Maurice Toole

35th Fighter Squadron

- 1st Lt. James Gump
- Tech. Sgt. Kevin Eads
- Staff Sgt. James Elliot
- Staff Sgt. Thomas Jackson
- Staff Sgt. Ray Lloyd
- Staff Sgt. Brad McAfoos
- Staff Sgt. Willard Radke
- Staff Sgt. Tyrone Tomison
- Senior Airman Torrence Batts
- Senior Airman Melissa Blain
- Senior Airman Andre Hubbard
- Senior Airman Adrian Lopez
- Senior Airman Jonathon Patrick
- Senior Airman Joshua Slusser
- Airman 1st Class Rizalde Johnson
- Airman 1st Class Richard Palmer
- Airman 1st Class Shane Tescher

80th Fighter Squadron

- Capt. Kirk Schultz
- 1st Lt. Elizabeth Benson
- 2nd Lt. John Mah
- 1st Lt. Candice McBrayer

- Master Sgt. James Sanders
- Master Sgt. Douglas Skelton
- Tech. Sgt. John Duggan
- Tech. Sgt. Paul Goodman
- Tech. Sgt. Todd Smith
- Staff Sgt. Robert Anderson
- Staff Sgt. Stephanie Brooks
- Staff Sgt. Barry Collins
- Staff Sgt. Susan Gamble
- Staff Sgt. Curtis Helms
- Staff Sgt. Kevin Kruse
- Staff Sgt. Danny Mobley
- Staff Sgt. Jamey Sykes
- Senior Airman Joseph Bagdon
- Senior Airman Scott Chamberlain
- Senior Airman Shawn Crawford
- Senior Airman Derrick Jones
- Senior Airman David Montez
- Senior Airman Richard Warner
- Airman 1st Class Christopher Cowgill
- Airman 1st Class Martin Edwards
- Airman 1st Class Matthew Sikes
- Airman 1st Class Ricky Smith

8th Security Forces Squadron

- Master Sgt. Anthony Clark
- Tech. Sgt. Brian Barr
- Tech. Sgt. Martin George
- Staff Sgt. Danny Christ
- Staff Sgt. Marvin Fleeting
- Staff Sgt. Adam Hessler
- Staff Sgt. Jerron Lampkin
- Staff Sgt. Anthony Lawrence
- Staff Sgt. Berry Ron
- Staff Sgt. Keith Rumler
- Senior Airman Nathan Banks
- Senior Airman Ryan Sadayasu
- Senior Airman Rocky Warden
- Airman 1st Class Jason Hawkins
- Airman 1st Class Steven Howard
- Airman 1st Class Christopher Jackson
- Airman 1st Class Daniel Jackson
- Airman 1st Class Jimmy Raimondi
- Airman 1st Class Tommy Ruel
- Airman 1st Class Brian Sadayaso
- Airman 1st Class Robert Schwartz
- Airman Valenciana Megal

8th Transportation Squadron

- Tech. Sgt. Brian Watson
- Staff Sgt. David Bittner
- Staff Sgt. Kent Klotz
- Staff Sgt. Lewis Mayo III
- Staff Sgt. Steven Prescott
- Staff Sgt. Chad Schneider
- Staff Sgt. Michael Valles
- Senior Airman Poppie Martin
- Senior Airman Daniel McCaffrey
- Senior Airman Michael Parrino
- Senior Airman Timothy Pleochinger
- Airman 1st Class Casey Flood
- Airman 1st Class Thomas Hale

8th Medical Operations Squadron

- Maj. Catherine Bard
- Capt. Casey Duncan
- Capt. Tammy Hayes
- Tech. Sgt. Russell Flowers

- Tech. Sgt. Drew Lucas
- Tech. Sgt. Jerry Picard
- Staff Sgt. John Raliegh

8th Maintenance Squadron

- Tech. Sgt. Brad Coburn
- Tech. Sgt. Joseph Evans
- Staff Sgt. James Angle
- Staff Sgt. Travis Heidbreder
- Staff Sgt. Donald Moses
- Staff Sgt. Steve Schillinger
- Staff Sgt. Heather Summerlot
- Staff Sgt. Charles Warren
- Staff Sgt. Michael Whitney
- Senior Airman Travis Baker
- Senior Airman Marvin Bettag
- Senior Airman Blaine Ford
- Senior Airman Adaoberto Franco
- Senior Airman Glenn Howard
- Senior Airman Billy Kemper
- Senior Airman Jason Melahn
- Senior Airman Kevin Strickland
- Airman 1st Class Shelly Karczewski
- Airman 1st Class Christopher Vick
- Airman 1st Class Gary Zimmerman

8th Mission Support Squadron

- Master Sgt. Minnette Brazier
- Tech. Sgt. Orren Bradley
- Tech. Sgt. Lori Poe
- Tech. Sgt. Lisa Thomas
- Staff Sgt. Quiltina Wright
- Senior Airman Glenn Logan

8th Communications Squadron

- Capt. Gregory Kendrick
- Master Sgt. John Staab
- Tech. Sgt. Jon Marsh
- Staff Sgt. Jason Colabine
- Staff Sgt. James Garvin
- Staff Sgt. Lance Ritzman
- Staff Sgt. Earl Scheibe
- Senior Airman Colin Armentor
- Senior Airman John Nitschke III

8th Civil Engineer Squadron

- Tech. Sgt. Ronald Prettyman
- Tech. Sgt. Tracy Smith
- Senior Airman Mark Cornell
- Senior Airman Curtiss Snow
- Airman 1st Class Benny Baladez

8th Logistics Group

- Tech. Sgt. Dennis Gaxiola
- Tech. Sgt. Ruben Gonzalez
- Tech. Sgt. Timothy Laws
- Staff Sgt. William Johnson
- Staff Sgt. Jeffery Leviner
- Staff Sgt. Shawn Smallwood
- Senior Airman Nina Boyd

8th Medical Support Squadron

- Tech. Sgt. Edward Gallacher
- Tech. Sgt. Florence Tauplin
- Staff Sgt. Marsh Alexander
- Staff Sgt. Sharon Clark
- Senior Airman Leonardo Shin

8th Services Squadron

- 1st Lt. Bryony Terrell
- Staff Sgt. John Holderbaugh
- Staff Sgt. Tenell Mosley
- Staff Sgt. Cowan Smith
- Airman 1st Class Roxann Ollison

8th Supply Squadron

- Staff Sgt. Mark Brinkman
- Staff Sgt. Kenneth Kemp, Jr.
- Senior Airman Jennifer Swezey
- Senior Airman Lee Westfall, Jr.
- Airman 1st Class Donald Carver
- Airman 1st Class LaToya Webb

607th CBCS

- Senior Airman Ian Powell
- Senior Airman Angela Varney

Outstanding Teams

The following teams were identified as outstanding during the Feb. 11-16 IRRE/CERE. These teams were recognized for displaying excellent teamwork and making significant contributions toward the success of their unit during the exercise. Their achievements reflect credit on themselves and set the standards for others to emulate.

Mission Planning Cell

- Maj. Anthony Roberson
- Capt. Pat McAtee
- Capt. Jon Tinsley
- Capt. Rusty Keen
- Capt. Jon Schultz
- Capt. Sean Bernardidi
- 1st Lt. Doyle Pompa
- 1st Lt. Matt Jensen
- 1st Lt. David Ratcliffe

Weapons Load Crew 7

- Staff Sgt. Willard Radtke
- Senior Airman Jonathan Patrick
- Senior Airman Adrian Lopez

Weapons Load Crew 15

- Staff Sgt. Brad McAfoos
- Senior Airman Torrance Batts
- Airman 1st Class Shane Tescher

Weapons Load Crew 30

- Senior Airman Landon Favors
- Senior Airman Colby Davis
- Airman 1st Class Christopher Stuckey

Weapons Load Crew 32

- Staff Sgt. Edward Olson
- Senior Airman John Casey
- Senior Airman Angela Padgett

Weapons Load Crew 37

- Staff Sgt. Stephen Bernat
- Airman 1st Class Casey Utecht
- Airman Ryan Perzee,

Weapons Load Crew 41

- Senior Airman Jimmy Huggins
- Senior Airman Julio Betancourt
- Airman 1st Class Jason Everman